

## NAVAL RULES VIOLATED BY FILL-FATED GUN CREW OF THE BIG BATTLESHIP

Four Charges of Powder Were in the Handling Room Instead of the Magazine.

MATTER TO BE PROBED  
Court of Inquiry Now in Session Making a Searching Investigation.

TUG CAPTAIN'S STORY  
Saw a Mangled Body Shoot Into the Air After the Disastrous Explosion.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—Searching investigation will be made by the court of inquiry on the Missouri regarding the statement that four charges of ammunition were in the handling room of the after turret at the time the explosion occurred. This fact has been reported in the newspaper dispatches from Pensacola, and seems to be borne out by the statement of a number of officers that it has been thought necessary in order to fire as rapidly as our ships have been firing to keep several charges in the target room, even though it is not in accord with the regulations, that no time may be lost in bringing the charges from the magazine. If such be the case, it can be stated that this condition of affairs will be promptly remedied.

It was pointed out to-day at the Navy Department by an official that the custom prevailed on board the other ships of the navy of keeping extra charges in the handling room during target practice, and it was said if this were so on the Missouri the system and not the personnel which would be at fault, said the official. Several high officials of the department had not before aware of this practice and expressed surprise at the reports that such was the case. No action will be taken at the department until a statement of the accident and the findings of the court have been received.

Notwithstanding the mystery which still surrounds the cause of the Missouri accident the announcement was made at the Navy Department that no suspension of target practice at Pensacola but that the other ships which have not yet sailed will go on the range at the regular time.

It was learned to-night that the Navy Department is of a board of distinguished naval officers to take up the whole question of target practice in the navy, past and present, and make a report to the secretary, showing among other things, whether the present system of target practice should be modified. The name of Admiral Dewey has been unofficially mentioned as president of the board, but this has not been decided on. It was said that the appointment of such a board necessarily will depend on the findings of the court of inquiry.

Rear Admiral Capps, chief constructor of the navy, who has gone to Pensacola to inspect the Missouri, at once will look into the question of the handling of the magazine. Turret on war ships of foreign navies are fitted with a swinging bottom which closes when the turret is hoisted. The fact that burning powder dropped from the turret, has revived the criticism of our bottomless turrets.

A telegram received to-day at the Navy Department announces the appointment of Lieut. M. E. Bristol as advocate of the court of inquiry. Lieut. Bristol is one of the ordnance experts of the navy and an officer of marked ability.

MASTER OF A TUG TELLS WHAT HE SAW

PENSACOLA, Fla., April 15.—The explosion in the twelve-inch turret of the battleship Missouri on Tuesday, which killed thirty-two men, continues to be the sole topic of discussion among naval officers, and many incidents of the occurrence are recalled to those who were either on board or near the ship.

The master of an ocean tug, which was about 100 yards from the Missouri when the explosion occurred, was watching the firing when he saw a puff of smoke shoot up through the top of the turret. For two or three minutes this continued. Then there was a dull thud, the smoke became blacker and thicker, followed by flames which burst through the turret and killed fifty feet into the air. Just before the bursting out of the flames he saw a mangled body shoot up through the turret and fall on the starboard side of the Missouri. The master of the tug started his vessel towards the battleship when she suddenly turned and, heading toward him at full speed, signaled the tug to follow. The big battleship came full speed for nearly three miles towards the beach, firing signals to the tug, the Scorpion and one or two other vessels, all of which were following close behind. The tugboat was almost run down by the Missouri, which continued at full speed, and the flames pouring out of the turret to within 100 yards of the beach, where the battleship was stopped. The tug was close behind the Missouri and Captain Cowles could be seen on the bridge giving instructions. Streams of water were spraying on the turret. Just before the ship reached the beach the tugboat men saw Captain Cowles turn from his work of directing the ship, and immediately gave orders and the big ship stopped as close to the shore as possible on the tugboats and other ships thought she was ashore. The last twelve of the thirty-two bodies were shipped that morning to night. The train carrying the bodies was clad in mourning.

## PLANS COMPLETED FOR BURIAL OF JOHN STARR

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.—The local post of the Grand Army of the Republic held a meeting to-night and completed arrangements for a military funeral for John Porter Starr, the Fairmount young man who was killed in the powder explosion on the battleship Missouri off Pensacola, Fla.

The plans are contingent on the time of the arrival of the body, but it is likely that the funeral will be held Sunday afternoon. There will be a naval guard from among the young man's shipmates, representatives of the Grant county militia organization, Grand Army men and soldiers of the Spanish war, besides the semi-military and civic societies of Fairmount and a large following of citizens.

Former schoolmates of young Starr are planning to take a prominent part in the exercises.

## STEEL CORPORATION WORKING IN GERMANY

United States Company Said to Have Made Overtures with View to Combination.

COLOGNE, April 15.—The Koelnish Zeitung says the United States Steel Corporation has made overtures to the German steel combination with a view to a mutual understanding regarding business policy.



JOHN PORTER STARR.  
Fairmount High School Graduate, Who Was Killed in the Explosion on the Battleship Missouri.

## JAY H. NEFF TO REFORM KANSAS CITY METHODS

Applicants for Positions Under the Mayor-Elect Must Write Technical Theses.

## BRIGHT INDIANA MAN

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 15.—Mayor-elect Jay H. Neff has made an announcement that is unwelcome news for sportsmen and political ward bosses. He proposes to appoint men to office who are qualified to fill the positions they seek. He does not believe that a barber who can scrape faces well also can scrape streets in a satisfactory manner. Therefore he has announced that all applicants for superintending of streets must show some technical knowledge of the business. His choice will be made from among those who display the greatest efficiency on paper at least. Applicants for the job are asked to submit a thesis of 1,000 words on "How to Care for Streets." They must tell how the work can be done in the most scientific, economical and sanitary way. It will not be necessary for them to demonstrate how the scraper should be pushed or how the shoveler should hold his arms when tossing a pile of cleanings into the wagon, but applicants must know, theoretically, how to do these things. They must also tell how streets can be best swept without raising a whirlwind of dust and blowing it into residences. This is a problem that other cities have worried over, especially where the horses attached to sprinklers are permitted to trot over the streets at break-neck speed as if water was as precious as beer.

Mr. Neff has been warmly commended for his new departure. It is an Indiana man, a graduate of De Pauw University, and would have attended the recent Phi Kappa Psi convention in Indianapolis but for the fact that while it was in session he was being elected mayor of Kansas City on the Republican ticket.

## ASSAULTS JAILER AND ESCAPES FROM PRISON

Alleged Forger May Have to Face Murder Charge at Venice, Ill.

VENICE, Ill., April 15.—Judd B. Haynes, a book agent arrested on the charge of forgery, escaped from jail to-day after knocking Jailer A. Seibert unconscious with a hammer. Seibert is believed to be fatally injured.

Haynes took the keys from the jailer and unlocked the cell of two negroes, telling them to escape. They refused to go. Haynes locked up the jail and fled.

## BODY OF DIVER HOAR BROUGHT TO SURFACE

NEW YORK, April 15.—This afternoon, 944 yards after being caught in the pipe at the bottom of the reservoir at Bounton, N. J., the body of Diver William Hoar was brought to the surface, having been freed a short time before from the heavy ball which held the man's leg fast.

## CLAIMS \$600—WIFE STOLEN; HE SUES TO RECOVER HER

Member of Gypsy Band Claims Leader Has Frau in Concealment.

## WOMAN COST HIM \$600

An unusual suit charging the theft of a wife was filed yesterday by Mitchell Lewis against Peter Morgan, better known as "Mexican Pete" among his itinerant friends. The parties concerned are nomads and originally hailed from Greece. According to the story of the plaintiff, the wife, who was a sister to Morgan's first wife, Lewis at Philadelphia about nine months ago and by a prearranged plan met "Mexican Pete" in Chicago and has since lived with him, being closely guarded and kept in perfect concealment from the husband. Through this abduction the abandoned husband claims that he has been deprived of his help and companionship of the wife and asks \$600.

Another unusual development to the case is the fact that at the time of the marriage of the Lewis the parents of the wife received \$600 from the husband as the price of the girl. This sum was brought out in Justice Shepherd's court yesterday afternoon when Morgan was being tried on another charge at the instigation of Lewis.

"Mexican Pete" is well known throughout the State, especially by those who are regular attendants at county fairs. It is said that he has amassed a neat fortune with a team which he has conducted at different county fairs. He gives his home as Zanesville, O., where he claims to be the proprietor of three farms. Both the plaintiff and defendant are said to belong in the Roumania tribe of gypsies, and to have spent the last winter in and around Indianapolis. Lewis and the stolen wife were married five years ago in Chicago.



Fairbanks, Beveridge and Overstreet to the Rescue.

## CITY SAYS TRUST SHOULD FURNISH ARTIFICIAL GAS

Declares Officials Are Ready to Grant Franchise to Company for Purpose.

## UNLOOKED-FOR ATTITUDE

The city of Indianapolis, one of the defendants in the case of the Consumers' Gas Trust Company against the Eureka Investment Company et al., yesterday filed an answer to the original complaint of the gas company in which every allegation in the first and second paragraphs is denied. It sets out the total assets of the company to be \$99,078.50, which includes all paid up stock certificates, cash on hands, main and service pipes and all other property with no past due debts not covered by warrants.

At length it gives reasons why the plaintiff, if it can no longer furnish natural gas to the public and its consumers, should continue to operate its plant by furnishing artificial gas through the old pipes and mains, though at slight increase in rates. This can easily be done, the answer insists, because of the fact that the streets and alleys are already well supplied with gas mains and pipes which, including other property, amounts to \$300,000. It is also asserted that there is \$125,000 in cash belonging to the company besides \$50,000 worth of pumping stations and leases out of the city.

Further the defendant says that the Board of Public Works and the mayor and the Common Council stand ready to grant the Gas Trust Company licenses, contracts and franchises to lay and maintain pipes to furnish artificial gas to the public and its consumers and insists on the court so ordering the plaintiff.

This stand of the city, it is believed, is decidedly unexpected to the friends of the Consumers' Gas Trust Company. It has been known that the city has been preparing some surprise, but that it should be so insistent in its demands to transfer the plant into an artificial gas plant was unlooked for.

Mr. J. V. Lilly, one of the directors of the Consumers' Gas Trust Company, last night expressed his surprise at the stand taken by the city on the question. "I know that the officials of the city have been in secret conference with the board and they would insist on such radical measures as this," he said. "It is of course well meant but I believe it is wrong."

## GERMANS LOSE IN BATTLE WITH HEREROS

BERLIN, April 15.—According to a dispatch received from Windhoek, German Southwest Africa, a captain and a lieutenant and six men were killed and a lieutenant and seven men were severely injured and five men were hurt in a battle with Hereros on April 13 at Okatumba. No other details have been received. The Hereros right flank retired to Okatumba after the battle at Onganjira on April 9.

## SNOW WAS EXPECTED, BUT DIDN'T COME ON SCHEDULE

March Weather Invades April's Domain and Mercury Takes a Drop.

## COLDER WEATHER TO-DAY

Fickle April turned a cold shoulder to the world yesterday, and by dusk had awakened the disgust and wrath of a whole city full of people. Old colds were given new impetus, and many more were expected to come, soothed to quiescence, were suddenly roused with a marked increase in profanity noted by the weather bureau. Snow was predicted for last night, and although it didn't come, was the only thing lacking to complete a thoroughly disagreeable situation.

At noon yesterday the temperature was 90 degrees above zero. Within a few hours the mercury began to fall, and it continued to drop steadily until by 7 o'clock in the evening it was just six degrees above freezing—38 above. A raw, wild wind frisked with an abandon that was terrifying to timid maidens with many petticoats to care for and that blew down the curtains of the most innocent and inoffensive. It was a March day under an April sky, and the worst winter lover longed for spring.

Similar conditions were reported yesterday evening throughout the West and Northwest, with snow at a few stations in Colorado and Wyoming. Chicago had a temperature of 30 at 7 o'clock, while other portions of the West had about the same temperature as Indianapolis. To the east it was warmer, but the cool wave was moving in that direction.

The local weather bureau's forecast for last night was rain, probably turning to snow, with to-day fair and decidedly colder. The temperature was expected to drop to a complete winter freeze, and this state of affairs was expected to last until this evening at least.

## CONVENTION PROBABLY IS TO BE CHANGED TO MAY 11

Original Date One Selected by the Democrats for State Convention.

## PRIMARIES ON MAY 10

The Republican county executive committee, at its meeting Thursday afternoon, selected May 12 as the date for the county convention, inadvertently overlooking the fact that the Democratic state convention has been set for the same date, and that Tomlinson Hall has been engaged by the Democratic organization. The conflict in dates will probably necessitate a change in the date for the county convention, as Tomlinson Hall is the only hall in the city large enough to accommodate the county convention, which will be composed of about 75 delegates.

It is probable that the date will be changed to May 11, with a corresponding change in the date of the primaries from May 11 to May 10.

County Chairman Harry B. Smith was out of the city yesterday, and Secretary Johnson said he had not yet said what would be done in the matter.

"It seems there is a conflict in the dates," said the secretary, "but I do not know what action will be taken. Colonel Smith is out of the city to-day, but I suppose he will take the matter up as soon as he returns."

Members of the executive committee said yesterday that May 12 was selected for the date of the county convention without a thought of the Democratic state convention. It did not occur to any of us to say about getting Tomlinson Hall for that date, said A. A. Young last night. "We took it for granted, I guess, that we could get the hall. Personally, I had forgotten that the hall was reserved for the Democratic state convention. I had in mind their convention for July 10, and overlooked the fact that they will have two state conventions this year. I suppose a new date will be selected that will be immediately following May 12. I should think that May 11 would be all right, with the primaries for the election of delegates to the state convention held on May 10."

## BRAVERY OF SHERIFF SAVES SLAYER'S LIFE

CENTRAL CITY, Col., April 15.—Since the mob dispersed last night no further attempt to lynch Axel D. Galbraith, the self-confessed murderer of his wife and son, has been made. A lynching was prevented solely by the bravery of Sheriff Cody, who declared to the mob: "I will die fighting to keep you out of this jail."

## PEACE ASSURED IN THE INDIANA COAL FIELDS

Miners and Operators, Failing to Agree, Adopt Last Year's Contract, Waiving Certain Points.

## CONCILIATION BY BOTH

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., April 15.—After two weeks of contention over the respective demands of the operators and the miners of Indiana, the joint committee of twenty miners were induced to accept a reduction in wages at the recent interstate joint conference. The resolutions also criticized Debs for making the attack on Mitchell.

The conference then voted to adopt last year's contract, the miners yielding their demands for a reduction in the price of powder, eight hours for engineers and firemen and regulations in regard to slate in the out townships have already been agreed upon. The operators, on the other hand, yielded a number of demands they had made.

The settlement means peace in the Indiana industry for two years. The miners preferred to yield their demands to a strike, which was induced to accept a reduction in wages at the recent interstate joint conference. The resolutions also criticized Debs for making the attack on Mitchell.

Smelting Works Partly Burned.

ST. LOUIS, April 15.—Fire to-day in the works of the St. Louis Smelting and Refining Company at Howard Station damaged \$250,000 worth of property.

## LATTER DAY HERO NEED NOT DIE FOR LOVE ALONE

Man Who Gives His Life Will Get Reward from Carnegie's \$5,000,000 "Hero Fund."

## PHILANTHROPIST'S PLANS

PITTSBURGH, Pa., April 15.—It was made known to-day that Andrew Carnegie had created a fund of \$5,000,000 for the benefit of the "dependents of those losing their lives in heroic effort to save their fellow-men, or for the heroes themselves if injured only." Provision is also made for medals to be given in commemoration of heroic acts. The endowment is to be known as "The Hero Fund," and consists of \$5,000,000 of first collateral 5 per cent. bonds of the United States Steel Corporation. The trust is placed in the hands of a commission of twenty men.

On March 12, just before his departure for Europe, Mr. Carnegie forwarded a letter to Mr. Taylor announcing the plan and stating that the certificate of the fund the United States and Canada and the waters thereof.

## THWARTS MURDERER BY PRESENCE OF MIND

Wife of Jealous Man Grapples with Assailant, Who Then Commits Suicide.

PHILADELPHIA, April 15.—Frederick Scalf, aged thirty-two years, committed suicide to-day after shooting his wife Mary. She will recover. Mrs. Scalf said she knew no reason for her husband's crime unless it was his groundless jealousy. The woman saved her life by her presence of mind. When her husband drew his revolver she threw her arms about him and a fierce struggle ensued. Scalf managed to discharge the weapon, a bullet entering his back. She fell and thinking he had killed her she turned the weapon upon himself and blew his brains out. The couple have three children and the shooting occurred in their presence.

## SACRIFICED EPIDERMIS TO SAVE LIFE OF SON

An Evansville Mother Undergoes Transference of Her Skin to Her Injured Boy.

## YOUTH HAD BEEN BURNED

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

EVANSVILLE, Ind., April 15.—Mrs. Robert Gunton, wife of the local manager of the Standard Oil Company, underwent a skin grafting operation here to-day to save the life of her son, aged fourteen.

## ORIGINAL INDICTMENT OF AARON BURR FOUND

RICHMOND, Va., April 15.—The original indictment of Aaron Burr for treason was found yesterday in the archives of the Federal Courts here. It was long supposed to have been lost. It is signed by John Randolph, of Roanoke, foreman of the jury. It is to be used, with other papers in the Aaron Burr trial, for an exhibit by the government at the St. Louis exposition.

## SHELLS RAIN ON PORT ARTHUR; RUMOR OF BIG FIGHT IN MANCHURIA



EMPEROR OF KOREA.

## PALACE OF THE KOREAN EMPEROR DESTROYED

Burned at Night, but No Lives Lost—His Majesty in Temporary Quarters.

## ARCHIVES, JEWELS LOST

LONDON, April 15.—The Japanese legation has received the following account of a fire which destroyed the imperial palace at Seoul last night. "The fire broke out at 10 o'clock on the evening of April 14. With the exception of the Kusieken building, which is in the European style, all the other palace buildings were consumed. The Emperor took refuge in the court circles. Our troops also did their best to guard the foreign legations, and the foreign representatives afterward expressed to us their sincere thanks."

Other reports say that all the archives, treasures and jewels were destroyed. In extinguishing the fire, and this produced an excellent feeling in court circles. Our troops also did their best to guard the foreign legations, and the foreign representatives afterward expressed to us their sincere thanks."

According to the Chronicle's Seoul correspondent, the fire may have been incendiary. It is said to have been due to the upsetting of a brazier by a servant. The fact that the palace buildings were rigorously guarded to their utter destruction, according to the correspondent, because the palace guards prevented the entry of the Japanese fire brigade, which was early on the spot, and which might have prevented the spreading of the fire but for the obstinacy of the guards. There were no fire appliances within the enclosure, and, therefore, the fire spread with furious rapidity, scattering millions of sparks as the tiled roof and low wooden buildings came crashing to the ground.

## REMARKABLE DAMAGE SUIT IN THE SOUTH

Another Decision in Favor of Woman Who Was Insulted on a Railway Train.

## TOGO TAKING CHANCES TO HIT A WARSHIP

ST. PETERSBURG, April 16.—That Vice Admiral Togo has not given up hope of further damaging the Russian ships now that there is little possibility of their again going to sea is shown by his bombardment of Port Arthur yesterday. Unquestionably Togo is aware of the effect of his previous bombardment and the fact that he has repeated it indicated to the officers here that he believes there is a good chance of a projectile hitting a target. In order to drop a shell into the harbor or city a high angle fire is necessary. This is the reason the Japanese squadron took up a position in the Liao-Tsien Gulf.

## LOSES MONEY IN BANK AND ENDS HIS LIFE

Prominent Attorney at Akron Commits Suicide Because of Financial Troubles.

## MITCHELL MAY END STRIKE IN MONTANA

HELENA, Mont., April 15.—As a result of negotiations which have been in progress for some time between President John Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers of America, and General Manager Horn, of the Northern Pacific, who still has supervision of that company's coal properties at Red Lodge, an end to the strike of coal miners is in sight. Six hundred men, who will return to work in a few days. The terms of settlement have not been announced.

PORT ARTHUR, April 14 (delayed in transmission).—An engagement occurred at 6 o'clock yesterday morning between seven Russian torpedo boats and the cruiser Bayan and Japanese vessels. The torpedo boat destroyer Bezstrashni was sunk. Five of the torpedo boat destroyers, with the Bayan, returned at 7 a. m. The battleships Petropavlovsk, Pobeda and Peresviet and the torpedo gunboat Gaydamak then put to sea. At 9:30 a. m. a terrific explosion occurred below the Petropavlovsk and the ship went down in two minutes. The Japanese squadron, consisting of about twenty ships, remained in sight until 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

The fighting between the opposition flotilla boats lasted about an hour. The Bezstrashni was surrounded by three Japanese torpedo boat destroyers and sunk. That Japanese boats then withdrew and the Japanese squadron appeared on the horizon, whereupon the Russian squadron left the